Summer 2012

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Men’s Volleyball Season Review – After the graduation of two key players from the 2011 season, Bill Schultz and his 2012 team had some holes to fill. The Hawks pulled together and faced that challenge head on. Several first year players complemented the veterans and they finished the season at 6-21 and broke a few records along the way. The Hawks set a new win-loss record, winning more matches (since the volleyball program was established during the 2000 season) and scored more set points against opponents who have traditionally dominated the Hawks. Their 2-9 United Volleyball Conference (UVC) league record tied the 2009 NECV A league record, but the 2012 Hawks set a new win-loss record, winning more matches (since the volleyball program was established during the 2000 season) and scored more set points against opponents who have traditionally dominated the Hawks. Their 2-9 United Volleyball Conference (UVC) league record tied the 2009 NECV A league record, but the 2012 Hawks faced a tougher mix of competition playing against six teams who finished ranked in the top 15 ranked programs as they focus on the UVC championship and an opportunity to win an automatic bid to the NCAA national championship.

The Hawks took their first back to back match victories at Wells when they faced the Express and Lancaster Bible College March 3rd. Hilbert beat Bard College (3-2) in the second UVC weekend cross-over games held at Nazareth College, but fell in the other remaining games on the schedule which produced their 6-21 record.

Something unique with the men’s volleyball program is the Hawks have a primary conference (UVC) and a secondary conference (AMCC - based on Hilbert’s association in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference). Because three other current AMCC institutions also sponsor men’s volleyball, the AMCC offered a one-day tournament to determine the league champion. This year, Medaille claimed the AMCC championship.

Leading the way for the Hawks were first year captains Anthony Blasz and Adam Weaver. Blasz finished second on the team in blocks (32) and service aces (15) and Weaver led the Hawks in kills (287), kills per set (3.30), and hitting percentage (.255). After only his second year at Hilbert, Weaver is 38 strikes away from becoming the Hawks All-Time Kill leader. Sophomore Fred Sickau had a big year at the net finishing with 188 kills (2.09 kps). He and Blasz were the only Hawks to play in all 90 sets this year.

Producing good numbers in the middle was junior college transfer, Scott Ross. He led the Hawks with 59 blocks (15 solo) and had the second best hitting percentage (.192) in his first year at Hilbert. Junior Adam Clabo was used as a defensive specialist and finished the season with 131 digs.

Five freshmen contributed to the growth of the program in varying degrees this year. Stephen Phillips is on track to shatter the Hilbert pass-assist record, if he is able to maintain his pace over the course of the next three seasons. He led the Hawks with 625 assists, positioning him in second place on the all-time list chasing the magic 1000 tally, and he finished with a team-best 27 service-aces. Ryan Ratajczak, with 239 digs credited to his name, is on his way to break the All-Time Dig record of 503, which was just set last season. David Mellerski, Andrew Duncan and Ryan Tofil each found ways to help the Hawks reach six wins this season. All three were used in the front line to either produce points off attacks or earn defensive stops with blocks at the net.

Weaver and Ratajczak were both named to an AMCC All-Conference team. Weaver, after being named as the AMCC Player of the Week February 27 and March 26, was honored as an AMCC 1st Team All-Conference player while Ratajczak was recognized as an AMCC 2nd Team All-Conference contributor. Weaver was named a UVC Player of the Week for his outstanding efforts during the week of March 5.

Hilbert finished the year ranked 19th in the country with 10.08 digs per set and three players were individually ranked by April 29th. Ratajczak, with 2.75 digs per set, finished the highest at 10th, Weaver finished ranked 21st with 3.3 kills per set and Phillips’ 7.18 assists per set placed him at 36th in the country.

Coaches Schultz and Nawotka are excited for the 2013 season already. Without losing anyone to graduation and the promising skills of the incoming athletes, the coaching staff and team members will continue to build the program as they focus on the UVC championship and an opportunity to win an automatic bid to the NCAA national championship.
Baseball Season Review:  With every program, when a team has strong senior leadership, great things can happen. The 2012 Hawks continued to build on the success started one season earlier as they doubled their win records in both league and overall standings. Hot batters, a strong pitching staff and some great coaching helped the Hawks improve to 10-20 overall and 6-10 in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. As a statement of their worth to the program, four Hawks were named to an AMCC All-Conference team at the conclusion of the season, which is the largest number a single team at Hilbert has produced in any one year.

Hilbert traveled down to Fort Pierce, Florida and picked up ten games as a warm-up to the tough AMCC schedule which was waiting for them in Western New York. The Hawks opened with losses to Rutgers (Camden), Delaware Valley College (DVC) and Earlham before they captured their first win (5-4 in eight innings) against Centenary College. After Nick Sherman grabbed his first complete game, a battery of pitchers took the mound in the night cap to secure the Hawks second win over Centenary in the 12-9 victory. The next day, in the second game of the week against Rutgers, the Hawks weren't sharp enough to continue their win streak and dropped the rematch 11-2. Derrick Mort earned his only win of season in the Hawks 11-7 battle against DVC on March 16, just before they suffered a 13-1 thrashing in the night cap against DVC to close-out the three-game series with the Pennsylvania school. Hilbert ended its spring trip with two losses to Richard Stockton College before they returned the Hamburg (3-7) to begin their league play.

Hilbert hosted Mount Aloysius in probably one of the earliest dates the Hawks played baseball in WNY. The Hawks opened with losses to Rutgers (Camden), Delaware Valley College (DVC) and Earlham before they captured their first win (5-4 in eight innings) against Centenary College. After Nick Sherman grabbed his first complete game, a battery of pitchers took the mound in the night cap to secure the team's second win over Centenary in the 12-9 victory. The next day, in the second game of the week against Rutgers, the Hawks weren't sharp enough to continue their win streak and dropped the rematch 11-2. Derrick Mort earned his only win of season in the Hawks 11-7 battle against DVC on March 16, just before they suffered a 13-1 thrashing in the night cap against DVC to close-out the three-game series with the Pennsylvania school. Hilbert ended its spring trip with two losses to Richard Stockton College before they returned the Hamburg (3-7) to begin their league play.

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In what was supposed to be a non-conference double header game against D'Youville turned out to be one long nine-inning hitting battle. D'Youville captured a 14-12 win after 4 1/2 hours of play and both coaches agreed to drop the second game. What turned out to be the Hawks final home game of the season was a split decision against Medaille College March 17. The Mavericks belted to a 13-3 win before Hilbert returned the favor in their 11-5 win to give Garrett Pauly his first win of the season. Greensburg took both games from Hilbert down in PA before the Hawks traveled to Coca Cola Field in downtown Buffalo for their league game against D’Youville. The baseball team accomplished a first for the program – since joining the AMCC league in the spring of 2005. The Hawks won their first double header set of games against a league opponent when they stole a 4-3 opening game (Sherman) before they trounced the Spartans (14-1). Pauly pitched a two-hitter and struck out eight to help the Hawks finish the season 6-10 in league standings and 10-20 overall.

Senior leadership was the key to the team's success this season. Pat Lagueras, Matt Militello, Nick Sherman and Scott Walker were all with the team since their freshman year and dedicated themselves to the program. Jim Per- nick, and Aaron Lawrence each played three seasons for the Hawks while Chris Parrott's injuries after the long basketball season prevented him from playing until his senior year. Each of this year's graduating athletes were contributors to the team's improvement over the last two seasons.

Sherman was a bull on the mound, earning AMCC Pitcher of the Year honors his final season finishing 5-6 (10 starts) going six complete games and tossing 63.1 innings while striking out 57 batters. He finished with 12 career wins becoming the All-Time Win leader for the baseball team since they joined the AMCC league. Militello capped his senior year off with thirty-four hits pushing him to a career total of 153 hits and claim to the All-Time Hit leader for Hilbert. The centerfielder finished with (.354) six doubles, two triples and one solo home run. Per- nick, in three years after his transfer from Clarion, broke the 100 hits plateau against Greensburg and built it to 103 against D’Youville at Coca Cola Field. The catcher finished hitting (.387) with 36 hits, was tied for first on team with 27 RBIs, team-leading two home runs, as well as six doubles, seventeen walks and 108 putouts from behind the plate. Lagueras finished with (.313) as the team's designated hitter; he saw less time on the mound this season but appeared in four games. Parrott finished with eight hits, two doubles and one home run offensively and he stretched from first base defensively getting credit for 118 putouts (second Frank Mancuso’s 127). Lawrence was often used as a pinch runner for his speed on the bases and Walker continued to bring a positive attitude to the other guys in the dug-out.

Leading the Hawks at the plate was junior eligibility-wise, Chris Hoak. The short-stop hit a team best (.422) with 102 at bats, scored second-best twenty-four runs, but led in hits (43) doubles (9) triples (4) and hit one home run while knocking in twenty-seven RBIs. His (.618) slugging percentage led the Hawks and he was credited with only five strike outs. He tied Militello with four stolen bases and earned a team high 89 assists on outs.

For his performances on the field, Hoak was honored as an AMCC First Team All-Conference player, joining Sherman on the elite squad. Militello was named to the Second Team and Pernick earned a spot on the Third Team All-Conference.
D’Youville games completed the 2012 season positioning the Hawks in ninth place in the AMCC league with a 4-14 record. Doyle College (4-2), again pulling a first victory from the Mavericks since the 2005 season. The Greensburg and 14 (19-3 in 5 innings, and 12-7). They followed those wins up with a road victory against cross-town rival Me-

It will be difficult to replace the leadership and skill level of the players who graduated in 2012. But coach Pernick is excited about his returning players and their dedication to the program and each other. He will continue to build depth on the team and a winning attitude in the program to carry the Hawks as they hope to challenge for an AMCC championship in the near future.

Softball Season Review: Working through a rookie head coach and the addition of several first year players, the 2012 seniors led the Hilbert softball program back to a competitive level of play at the conclusion of their careers. The 2012 Hawks improved to 8-19 with a few big Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) wins after suffering a 1-26 rainy and shortened 2011 season. The Lisa Baker led-program saw improvements in the Hawks offense and defense with upgraded markers in both categories.

Hilbert opened Baker’s inaugural season with two close losses (Johnson State and Keystone State) on the first day of the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic in Myrtle Beach, SC. The Hawks rebounded the next morning giving Baker her first win as a head coach in their 13-1 victory over Johnson State but then suffered two losses in a row to Drew University and Baptist Bible. After a 13-2 victory over Henry Ford Community College, Hilbert dropped their next contest (6-4) to Ursuline; later that day, they captured their second AMCC win over The College Of New Rochelle (12-2, 5 innings). The blue and white squared off against another community college (Kellogg) to end their nine-game tourney down south. Hilbert returned to Western New York with a 2-5 overall record against Division III teams and they proved they were ready for whatever mother-nature could throw at them. After what seemed like a rained-out 2011 season, the clouds and rain stayed away and allowed for great games to be played up north.

Hilbert faced Penn State Behrend in their first northern game and captured their first-ever AMCC win over the Lions in the second game of the double header. The Hawks built a 5-2 lead through six innings and held on in the bottom of the seventh (5-4) for their first AMCC win for Baker and their first victory – home or away – over the Lions, who finished the season at 16-2 as the eventual AMCC champions. Two more AMCC opponents grabbed wins from the Hawks (Altoona and Mount Aloysius) before Hilbert won their first double header victory of the season against Cazenovia (15-7, 10-0 in 5 innings). The Hawks finished the season with six conference double headers and captured three games along the way. After losing to La Roche and Bradford, Hilbert took their second double wins against Franciscan University April 14 (19-3 in 5 innings, and 12-7). They followed those wins up with a road victory against cross-town rival Medaille College (4-2), again pulling a first victory from the Mavericks since the 2005 season. The Greensburg and D’Youville games completed the 2012 season positioning the Hawks in ninth place in the AMCC league with a 4-14 record.

Seniors Halsey Baker, Allison Hall, Jill Martucci, and Emili Ripley were one consistent core group of players through the coaching changes and they seemed to thrive their senior year as players and teammates. Baker finished the 2012 season ranked 7th in Division III statistics in doubles per game after she led the team with fourteen double-baggers and her career best (.356) batting average and team best thirty-two RBIs. Ripley led the Hawks, and set a new standard for the program, when she whacked six home runs and finished ranked one hundred and seventy-sixth in Division III in home runs per game. The third-year athlete graduated with a (.314) batting aver-
age covering fifty bases. Martucci tied for first place on the team with two triples and finished second with nine doubles scoring a team-best thirty-two runs. And Allison Hall had a few very timely hits to help elevate the Hawks to eight wins this season.

Freshman first basewoman Rachel Collier led the Hawks, going .483 at the plate with nine walks and four strike-outs en route to being named to the AMCC Third Team All-Conference squad.

As a team, the Hawks made dramatic improvements statistically across the board. Hilbert finished the season ranked 40th in Division III with .333 batting average. Where a season ago, Martucci’s .361 average led the team, this year’s team had six players hit better than .361. Offensively Hilbert more than doubled their runs scored from a season ago (166 vs. 80) and defensively, the Hawks held their opponents to twenty-four fewer tallies.

Sharing the main duties in the circle were Ripley and junior Devan Jonathan who were supported by Vicki Ernst and Allison Hall. The four combined to improve Hilbert’s pitching in every category shutting down their opponent’s to a .351 average (vs. a .406 in 2011).

With the loss of experienced graduates, coach Baker will rely on thirteen returning veterans and a crop of new rookies to continue to improve the competitiveness of the softball program with the goal of capturing the AMCC championship each season.
**Men's Lacrosse Season Review:** As a first-year member in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC), the 2012 Hilbert College men's lacrosse team proved they were worthy of their inclusion in the league. The Hawks battled for a play-off spot through the last week of the regular season even after they lost several key players to injuries over the course of the season. Their 4-4 NEAC record placed them in fifth place, one slot out of the four-team run for an automatic bid to the national Division III tournament.

Hilbert opened their season with three home games in a row in early March. With poor field conditions on campus, Orchard Park High School became the Hawks home field when they hosted Penn State Abington on March 10 then Mount Saint Vincent on March 11. Hilbert earned their first shut-out of the season with their lop-sided 22-0 victory over NEAC foe, Abington. In a hard-fought game the next day, Hilbert came up on the short end of the stick losing 10-9 to Mount Saint Vincent. Cazenovia captured a 10-9 win before Hilbert squared off against Alfred University ten days later. The Hawks grabbed a 10-8 victory over NEAC Cobleskill March 28.

The second month of the season was a little tougher for the Hawks as injuries began to take their toll on the team. April started with a non-conference loss at La Roche but a league win at home against Wells. At half time of the 16-5 victory over Thiel College, the team and coaches honored Hilbert's two graduating seniors, Eric Russell and Justin Peterson for their contribution to the program since it gained varsity status in 2011. The Hawks finished their season with four straight road games pulling out one victory over SUNYIT April 22. League-leaders Keuka, Medaille and Morrisville State all retained their lofty status with their home wins against Hilbert at the end of the season dropping the Hawks to 4-4 and 5-7 overall.

Sophomore Sean Purtill led the Hawks offense with 43 points (25 g) off 60 shots on goal. The attacker was named as a NEAC Third Team All-Conference member by the opposing league coaches at the completion of the season.

Also joining Purtill with perfect attendance and starts (12/12) for the Hawks were freshman attackman Elliot Russilii and defender Sean Manning. Russilii used his speed on top and finished third on the team with 26 points (18 goals), .367 shooting percentage, 24 ground balls and caused seven turnovers. Manning led the Hawks with 10 caused turnovers, and finished with 18 ground balls while protecting the net. Nick Cavalieri also scored 21 goals and assisted on 10 other scores for the Hawks while Nick Kieffer earned 16 assists getting credit for 23 points. Kieffer led the team with 55 ground balls many of which were earned off his 90 face-off wins.

Freshman William Wagner carried the team in net most of the season playing 583 minutes making 117 saves. Statistically, when comparing the 2012 season to the 2011 season, Hilbert's defense held their opponents to ten fewer goals (146 vs. 156), but the loss of big time punch from the Hawks midfield position which they had one season ago also showed in the Hawks scoring results in 2012.

Doug Takac missed the last five games of the season after suffering a wrist injury (11 goals, 6 assists); John Pingitore played only four games for the Hawks and scored 8 goals (5 assists) to prove he was a strong offensive threat for opponents to worry about. And Ryan Wagner, the team’s leading scorer and nationally ranked player from the team’s inaugural season, was able to play in only two games this season before stepping out of the line-up.

Coach Schunke and his coaching staff will continue to build the program as they focus on the NEAC championship and an opportunity to win an automatic bid to the NCAA national championship.

**Coming Soon to A Campus Near You!**

Women's Lacrosse Varsity Status in 2012-13!

A Drop Down Batting Cage in the Hafner!

Buy A T-shirt, Join the Nest!
Pitcher of the Year:
Nick Sherman (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster) senior, baseball

First Team All-Conference:
Adam Weaver (Stow, OH/Archbishop Hoban) sophomore, volleyball
Nick Sherman (Lancaster, NY/Lancaster) senior, baseball
Chris Hoak (Hamburg, NY/St. Francis) junior/senior, baseball

Second Team All-Conference:
Ryan Ratajczak (Orchard Park, NY/Orchard Park) freshman, volleyball
Matt Militello (Depew, NY/Lancaster) senior, baseball

Third Team All-Conference:
Rachel Collier (Peru, NY/Peru) freshman, softball
Jim Pernick (Tonawanda, NY/St. Joseph's Collegiate) senior, baseball

All-Conference Sportsmanship Team:
Steve Phillips (Penfield, NY/Penfield) freshman, volleyball
Emily Ripley (Batavia, NY/Notre Dame) senior, softball
Joe Pernick (Tonawanda, NY/St. Joseph's Collegiate) sophomore, baseball

AMCC Player of the Week
Adam Weaver, volleyball, February 27 and March 26, 2012
Matt Militello, baseball, April 23, 2012

Be Sure to Follow Your Hilbert College Athletics Teams on Twitter and Facebook
Find us by logging onto www.hilbert.edu/athletics page.
Then click on the logo you want to visit:

Noteworthy News:
AMCC Peak Performance Award Winners: This was a new awards program for the AMCC during the 2011-12 year. It was established as a way to focus greater attention on the fine collective academic accomplishments of our many teams. There is one team honoree selected for every AMCC championship sport, with the winners possessing the highest collective cumulative grade point average in their particular program.

Hilbert captured the women's soccer team award with a fall semester grade point average of 3.58 while the men's volleyball team earned a spring semester grade point average of 3.25.

After a quick scan of the award winners from all fifteen AMCC championship sports, the Hilbert women's soccer team earned the second highest grade point average falling one one-hundreds of a point behind the D'Youville College women's cross country team who finished with a 3.59.
The Athletics Department proudly honored their 2011-2012 student-athletes at its annual Athletics Awards Reception May 3 held in Swan Auditorium.

Team Award winners were: Baseball Most Valuable Player: Chris Hoak; Most Improved Player: Jim Pernick; Coaches Award: Matt Militello. Basketball, men Most Valuable Player: Dan McFarland; Most Improved Player: Jordan VanDunk; Coaches Award: Cody Troutman. Basketball, women Most Valuable Player: Natalie Whitman; Most Improved Player: Jenah Labuski; Coaches Award: Julie Bossard. Cross Country, men Most Valuable Runner: Matt Williams; Most Improved Runner: Stephen Crane; Coaches Award: Matt Hunt. Cross Country, women Most Valuable Runner: Maria Linares; Most Improved Runner: Jackie Downey; Coaches Award: Maria Linares. Golf Most Valuable Player: Pat Brooks; Most Improved Player: Jim Pernick; Coaches Award: Gary Giwera. Lacrosse, men Most Valuable Player: Sean Purtill; Most Improved Player: Lucas Cellino; Coaches Award: Sean Manning. Soccer, men Most Valuable Player: Eric Russell; Most Improved Player: Tyler Conigliaro; Coaches Award: James Knapp. Soccer, women Most Valuable Player: Nicole Blair; Most Improved Player: Jill Martucci; Coaches Award: Sarah Schmidt. Softball Most Valuable Player: Jill Martucci; Most Improved Player: Kateland Ball; Coaches Award: Emili Ripley. Volleyball, men Most Valuable Player: Adam Weaver; Most Improved Player: Ryan Ratajczak; Coaches Award: Stephen Phillips. Volleyball, women Most Valuable Player: Shannon Memminger; Most Improved Player: Jordan Botsford; Coaches Award: Rachel Kwiatkowski.

Special recognition for Hilbert’s 2012 edition of the Chi Alpha Sigma New York Theta Chapter followed. The National College Athlete Honor Society honors junior and senior student-athletes carrying a grade point average of 3.4 or higher who exhibit good moral character. The fourteen newest members inducted were: Nicole Blair, junior; Michael Cavanagh, junior; Stephen Crane, senior; Maria DelMonico, junior; Amber Grosch, junior; Allison Hall, senior; James Knapp, junior; Rachel Kwiatkowski, junior; Jessica Morey, junior; Katie Newton, junior; Kayla Norman, senior; Katherine Pettis, junior; Emili Ripley, senior; and Stephanie Smith, junior. These student-athletes joined three senior repeat honorees (Michael Maritato, Jill Martucci and Matt Militello).

Once the bulk of the evening presentations were distributed, Jill Martucci (women’s softball and soccer; Hamburg, NY/Hamburg) and Matthew Militello (baseball; Depew, NY/Lancaster) were announced as the 2012 McGrath Award winners. The award is provided by Francis and Marie McGrath, two generous benefactors of Hilbert College who stipulate that an award be given to the one female and male graduating student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or higher who exhibit good moral character. The fourteen newest members inducted were: Nicole Blair, junior; Michael Cavanagh, junior; Stephen Crane, senior; Maria DelMonico, junior; Amber Grosch, junior; Allison Hall, senior; James Knapp, junior; Rachel Kwiatkowski, junior; Jessica Morey, junior; Katie Newton, junior; Kayla Norman, senior; Katherine Pettis, junior; Emili Ripley, senior; and Stephanie Smith, junior. These student-athletes joined three senior repeat honorees (Michael Maritato, Jill Martucci and Matt Militello).

To recognize athletes, coaches and/or administrators who have made outstanding contributions to the intercollegiate athletics program at Hilbert College.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. Athletes
• It is suggested that the athlete graduated 5 or more years ago from the college;
• Attended Hilbert and participated in athletics for at least 2 years
• Demonstrated superior athletic performance and contributed to the success of the athletics program while at the college;
• Are of worthy citizenship and a positive role model.
B. Coaches
• Demonstrated superior competence and professionalism while at the college;
• Are of worthy citizenship and a positive role model.
C. Administrators
• Demonstrated superior competence and professionalism while at the college;
• Are of worthy citizenship and a positive role model.
D. Honorary
• Do not fit in the above categories but have made a significant contribution to Hilbert College Athletics and/or a significant impact in regional, state, national, professional, or international levels of athletics
• May include counselors, Faculty Athletics Reps, etc.
• Are of worthy citizenship and a positive role model.

NOMINATIONS

Written nominations will be accepted by Alumni Office at Hilbert College and those nominations will be shared with the hall of fame committee at Hilbert College on an on-going basis. Nominations must be on file before the initial selection committee meeting to be considered for induction in the fall of that year. Completed nominations should include a current resume of the nominee’s achievements in athletics, the profession, and civic activities. Candidates nominated for induction remain eligible for five years. Candidates must be present in order to be inducted into the Hilbert College Athletics Hall of Fame. (If deceased, a member of the family must be in attendance at the induction ceremonies)

PROCESS

Hilbert College nomination form must be completed and submitted to the Alumni Office. Person making the nomination must visit the College’s website to access the nomination form, complete and return the form by August 31 each year. http://www.hilbert.edu/alumni/alumni-awards.